

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-13, 16-18, 21-33, 36-38 and 41-42 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-9, 11-13, 16, 18, 21-29, 31-33, 36 and 38 are amended, claims 14-15, 19-20, 34-34 and 39-40 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein; and new claims 41-42 are added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8, 10-28 and 30-40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Layton (U.S. Patent No. 6,829,478); and rejects claims 9 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Layton in view of Vaios (U.S. Patent No. 6,271,752). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither Layton nor Vaios, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests a plurality of first external apparatuses; notifying detection information to each of the first external apparatuses; when it is determined that at least one of the users of the plurality of first external apparatuses has accessed the detection information, notifying to the first external apparatuses, which the others of the users use, a fact that the detection information has already been accessed, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 21.

Layton instead discloses, at col. 4, lines 32-41, that an information management network (IMN) automatically receiving an alert notification from premises where the monitoring devices are located, automatically sends interactive alert messages to phones, faxes, e-mail devices, pagers, handheld computers and/or a manned monitoring center, as previously specified by the owner. As disclosed in col. 5, lines 52-56, Layton discloses that customers can elect to have central station monitoring facility backup capability to be employed after one or more contacts listed in the customer's profile have been contacted and queried, and have failed to receive or respond correctly to the interrogation from the IMN.

However, Layton does not disclose or suggest that when it is determined that at least one of the users of the plurality of first external apparatuses have accessed the detection information, notifying to the first external apparatuses, which the others of the users use, a fact that the detection information has already been accessed. Therefore, Layton does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features of independent claims 1 and 21.

Vaios does not compensate for the above-noted deficiencies of Layton.

Claims 2-13, 16-18, 22-33 and 36-38 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter, as well as for the other features they recite.

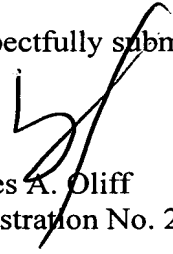
Furthermore, neither Layton nor Vaio discloses or suggests notifying to the first external apparatuses include notifying the detection information to the plurality of first external apparatuses while giving priority to a portable terminal closest to the supervision area based on location information of each portable terminal, the location information detected by using location detection function of each portable terminal, as recited in independent claims 41 and 42.

Layton instead discloses, at col. 9, lines 13-26, that if a contact is answered by a voice mail or an answering machine, a message is left. Therefore, independent claims 41 and 42 define patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13, 16-18, 21-33, 36-38 and 41-42 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 8, 2005

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